

ASSOCIATED PRESS
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(560) PMS BUREAU
COUNCILS-CUBA (ROUNDUP)
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, FEB. 20 (AP)--LEADING CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS JOINED SEVERAL REPUBLICANS TODAY IN CALLING FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL--AND NOT JUST PART--OF THE 17,000 RUSSIAN TROOPS IN CUBA.

A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY THAT SOVIET PREMIER KHRUSHCHEV PLANS TO SHIP SEVERAL THOUSAND RUSSIAN SOLDIERS HOME SOON WAS HAILED AS A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT.

BUT MEMBERS OF BOTH PARTIES SAID THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION MUST CONTINUE TO PRESS WITH ALL OF THE FORCE AT ITS COMMAND FOR COMPLETE EVACUATION OF RUSSIAN MILITARY MEN FROM THE ISLAND.

SOME INFORMANTS SAID THE RUSSIANS HAD GIVEN ASSURANCE THAT SEVERAL THOUSAND TROOPS WOULD BE OUT OF CUBA BY MARCH 15. THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION IS NOW WAITING TO SEE WHAT STEPS THE SOVIETS TAKE.

THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL COMMENT FROM THE WHITE HOUSE OR THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

JOHN A. MCCONE, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, WAS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE YESTERDAY THAT SEVERAL EMPTY RUSSIAN MERCHANT SHIPS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO CUBA.

IN REPORTS FROM CONGRESSIONAL AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE, NO FIGURE OTHER THAN "SEVERAL THOUSAND" HAS BEEN GIVEN ON THE PROMISED WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS. AND THERE WAS NO INDICATION FROM THESE SOURCES ON WHETHER ADDITIONAL RUSSIAN WEAPONS MIGHT BE REMOVED FROM CUBA.

WHILE URGING THE ADMINISTRATION TO PRESS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL SOVIET FORCES FROM CUBA, NO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS CAME FORWARD WITH ANY CONCRETE PROPOSALS AS TO HOW THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED SHORT OF FORCE--A POLICY CAP SEN. GEORGE D. Aiken, R-Vt., SAID HE IS CONVINCED THE DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION SHARES.

SEN. RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA., CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, SAID THAT WHILE THE SOVIET PLEDGE TO WITHDRAW SOME TROOPS IS ENCOURAGING "WE CANNOT BE COMPLACENT ABOUT IT UNTIL ALL THE RUSSIAN TROOPS AND TECHNICIANS MANNING ANY WEAPONS ARE REMOVED."

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SEN. LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, R-MASS., TOP REPUBLICAN ON THE ARMED SERVICES TROOP, URGED IN A SEPARATE INTERVIEW THAT THIS COUNTRY "KEEP UP THE PRESSURE" TO GET ALL OF THE RUSSIANS OUT.

SEN. JOHN STENNIS, D-MISS., HEAD OF THE SENATE PREPAREDNESS SUBCOMMITTEE, SAID THE SOVIET MOVE WAS ONLY A FIRST STEP.

"OUR POLICY MUST BE TO INSIST THAT THEY ALL BE WITHDRAWN," HE SAID. "THIS IS THE ONLY THING THAT WILL REALLY REMOVE THE MENACE."

STENNIS SAID HIS SUBCOMMITTEE, WHICH BEGINS AN INVESTIGATION OF THE CUBAN SITUATION LATER THIS WEEK, WILL WANT TO KNOW JUST WHAT KIND OF TROOPS ARE BEING REMOVED. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS SAID THERE ARE 5,000 BATTLE-READY COMBAT TROOPS STATIONED IN CUBA, ALONG WITH SOVIET "TECHNICIANS."

SEN. HARRY GOLDWATER, R-ARIZ., FOUND LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE WITHDRAWAL OF ONLY A PART OF THE RUSSIAN GARRISON. HE SAID THERE SHOULD NOT BE ONE UNIFORMED RUSSIAN OR TECHNICIAN LEFT IN CUBA.

SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER MIKE MANIFESTO OF MONTANA VOICED HOPE--WHICH HE SAID WAS SHARED BY KHRUSHCHEV--THAT KHRUSHCHEV WILL CALL ALL OF HIS TROOPS HOME. BUT MANIFESTO SAID THIS FAR THERE IS NOTHING BUT HOPE ON THAT SCORE.

CHAIRMAN THOMAS MORGAN, D-PA., REPORTED THAT DIRECTOR JOHN A. MCCONE OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAD TOLD THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN A CLOSED SESSION THAT "SEVERAL EMPTY MERCHANT SHIPS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO CUBA."

AIXEN, WHO ATTENDED A WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE MONDAY NIGHT AT WHICH KENNEDY READ PORTIONS OF KHRUSHCHEV'S MESSAGE, SAID HE DOESN'T BELIEVE THE ADMINISTRATION KNOWS WHAT TO DO NEXT ABOUT CUBA.

"I'VE FELT THAT WHEN CUBA IS RECOVERED, IT WILL HAVE TO BE RECOVERED BY THE CUBANS," HE SAID. "I THINK OUR POLICY SHOULD BE TO GIVE THE CUBANS ALL THE HELP WE CAN TO WORK TOWARD THAT END."

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